natural mineral water produced as per existing Indian standards are safe for human consumption.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. BIS through its Scheme of Testing and Inspection and Surveillance Inspections ensures that its licensees are manufacturing Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water as per the specifications stipulated in the relevant Indian Standards.

Excess foodgrains in godowns

951. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 333.14 lakh tonnes against the prescribed minimum buffer norms of 181 lakh tonnes of foodgrains are still lying excess in various godowns across the country; and

(b) if so, what were the alternative storage facilities arranged for the proper storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The stock of foodgrains as on 1.1.2003 was 482 lakh tonnes which was in excess of the buffer norms.

(b) Adequate capacity is available for scientific storage of foodgrains.

Labourers in FCI

952. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the casual labourers working in Food Corporation of India as on date, State-wise;

(b) the wage structure of these workers; and

(c) the number of workers inducted under the Direct Payment System, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) 121 casual labourers have been engaged directly, by the Food Corporation of India for the foodgrains handling operations in its depots in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The casual labourers are paid the wages as prescribed by the local District Collector/District Magistrate.